

(Tuesday, June 15)

Subject: 2021 Upper Snake River and Reservoir Operations Update

Purpose: The purpose of these updates is to provide information regarding Reclamation's operations and basin conditions as the season progresses. The operations outlined in this update are based on the best data available at the time and are subject to change as new information becomes available. For additional information and resources, please visit our website at <https://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/uppersnake/>.

Highlights

-This update provides an outlook for additional releases below Milner as well as projected reservoir levels and impacts later in the year. Projections in this update are based upon current outlooks and are provisional in nature. Updates will continue to be provided as the season progresses.

South Fork above Heise Reservoirs

Jackson Lake Dam: Storage in the reservoir peaked on June 8th at 819,497 acre-feet, which is 97% of capacity. At 95% full, current reservoir storage is 106% of normal for the date. Releases from the dam have been increased to approximately 3,750 cubic feet per second (cfs) and additional increases in outflow may be needed to balance storage with downstream reservoirs. With the need to balance storage with downstream reservoirs, and expanding drought conditions reducing inflow, reservoir levels are likely to impact boat ramp access later this year. At this time, our projections indicate Colter Bay boat ramp is likely to be impacted in August. Impacts to Signal Mountain and Leek's Marina are less probable and would likely not occur until September. The embedded website links at the end of this document can be used to monitor reservoir levels and boat ramp access.

Palisades Dam: Storage in the reservoir peaked on June 12th at 1,098,751 acre-feet, which is 92% of capacity. At 91% full, current reservoir storage is 118% of normal for the date. Releases from the dam have been increased to approximately 13,500 cfs and additional increases in outflow may be needed to balance storage with downstream reservoirs. With the need to balance storage with downstream reservoirs, and expanding drought conditions reducing inflow, reservoir levels are likely to impact boat ramp access later this year. At this time, our projections indicate Blow Out boat ramp is likely to be impacted in August. Impacts to Calamity boat ramp are less probable and would likely not occur until September. The embedded website links at the end of this document can be used to monitor reservoir levels and boat ramp access.

Henry's Fork and Willow Creek Reservoirs

Island Park Dam: The reservoir filled to capacity on May 24th. At 98% full, current reservoir storage is 101% of normal for the date. On June 10th, releases were increased, and the reservoir began drafting in order to maintain flow targets below the canals near St. Anthony of approximately 350 cfs. With the need to maintain streamflow targets, and expanding drought conditions reducing inflow, reservoir levels are likely to impact boat ramp access at Island Park Reservoir later this year. At this time, our projections indicate Mill Creek, Westend, and McCrea boat ramps are likely to be impacted in late July or early August. Impacts to Buttermilk and Pond's Lodge boat ramps are not expected. The embedded website links at the end of this document can be used to monitor reservoir levels and boat ramp access.

Mainstem Snake River Reservoirs above Milner

American Falls Dam: Storage in the reservoir peaked on April 8th at 1,614,386 acre-feet, which is 97% of capacity. At 49% full, current reservoir storage is 60% of normal for the date. Reservoir management to balance system storage began in early May. At this time, impacts to City Marina/Sportsmen's boat ramp are expected in late June or early July. Impacts to Westside boat ramp are not expected but some impacts may occur when minimum reservoir levels are observed in September. The embedded website links at the end of this document can be used to monitor reservoir levels and boat ramp access.

Milner Dam: Since April 1st, approximately 180,000 acre-feet of storage from the reservoir system has been released below Milner for the Salmon Flow Augmentation Program. Due to widespread drought across the west, an additional 20,000-40,000 acre-feet is likely to be delivered from the Snake River above Milner system at a rate of 1,000-2,000 cfs below Milner. An update will be issued when the additional volume has been finalized.

Upper Snake Reservoir System: Physical storage in the federal reservoir system above Milner peaked on April 15th at 3,518,239 acre-feet, which is 89% of capacity. At 75% of capacity, current system storage is 90% of normal and 937,920 acre-feet lower than last year on this date. On June 14th, systemwide diversions totaled 28,750 cfs, and total natural flow above Milner was estimated to be 23,100 cfs. The day of allocation likely occurred on June 13th, and 2021 storage allocations will be issued in the next few days.

[Jackson Lake Boat Ramps](#)
[Palisades Reservoir Boat Ramps](#)
[American Falls Reservoir Boat Ramps](#)
[Island Park Reservoir Boat Ramps](#)
[Upper Snake Total System Storage \(Federal\)](#)

For additional information, please contact the individuals below, or call the Upper Snake River and Reservoir Operations line at 208-670-0761.

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Reservoir levels, reservoir discharge, and river flows can be monitored on the USBR Hydromet page here:
<https://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/>

The Upper Snake “teacup” diagram which provides a graphical overview of system conditions can be accessed here: <https://www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/burtea.html>